

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE'S PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

10:00 AM, FRIDAY MARCH 16, 2012

ROOM 1D, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

My name is David Hooper and I am the manager of Quality Assurance at Hospice Southeastern Connecticut. Our hospice agency cares for hospice patients who reside in New London County.

I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 5499 An Act Concerning Regulation Relating to Hospice Care.

There is little quality of life for patients who are separated from family and friends in their final days because their only choice for a home-like hospice residence may be so far away from them. Hospice Southeastern Connecticut has been providing hospice home care for the residents of New London County for twenty five years. We are actively working toward the goal of constructing a residence that will conveniently serve the residents of the state that live east of the Connecticut River. It is imperative that residents throughout the state have convenient access to a facility where terminally ill patients can live out their final days in a home-like atmosphere under the care of hospice health care professionals. It would be unimaginable for one facility in the state to argue that they should be the only facility where you can go to give birth. It is equally unimaginable that one hospice should argue that theirs is the only facility where you can go to die.

I strongly urge you to support HB5499 and become a champion for quality of end-of-life care for patients and their families throughout the state.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

David Hooper
Manager of Quality Assurance
Hospice Southeastern Connecticut
227 Dunham Norwich, CT